

## **AMBULANCE STUDY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting of August 4, 2004

### **Members Present:**

Gil Archambault, Kevin Federico, Peter Leishman, Mervin Newton, Peggy Seward, Dick Tortorelli,

### **Absent:**

Denise Long, Frank Zielinski, Larry Pickett

### **Others Attending:**

Eric Schelberg (Ambulance Director), Vicki Blanchard (Milford Paramedic)

### **Business / Discussion:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman, Peter Leishman Minutes of July 21, 2004 meeting were read and corrections made and then approved unanimously by members present.

Speakers scheduled were both unable to attend so the meeting was dedicated to a review of the answers that the Private Ambulance Services provided to questionnaire sent them. Care Plus Ambulance Service Inc., Rockingham Regional Ambulance Inc., and American Medical Response Northeast were the ambulance services that responded to the questionnaire. Their responses were read to clarify any terminology included.

Several questions came up by members present so it was unanimously decided to invite someone from the private services to attend our August 18th meeting. At that time committee members should be prepared to discuss questions or concerns with them. Below are some of the questions mentioned.

- 1) Would the private service be willing to enter into a long-term contract such as 10 years if they were awarded the contract for ambulance coverage for Milford?
- 2) How would costs or subsidy change over time, i.e. each year of contract?
- 3) What is the turnover rate for personnel?
- 4) For Rockingham Ambulance, do you have a monetary gain by using St. Joseph Hospital to transport patients to? Do you get a subsidy from St. Joseph Hospital to operate?

Gil Archambault felt that a non-public working meeting may be beneficial. It was discussed by the committee members present and voted unanimously that there would be no reason for it at this time.

Kevin Federico asked Eric Schelberg to question present members of the ambulance service to see if they would leave if they join the Fire Department. Dick Tortorelli also mentioned that Chief Pauley presented the concept to the Fire Department members but not known at present how many would want to be First Responders/EMTs.

Gil Archambault asked Eric Schelberg why he states that there is no need for a third ambulance when it was part of the Master Plan of 1999. Eric felt that due to stable call volume that has plateaued, that no third ambulance would be needed for at least five years. Eric also mentioned that if an ambulance is needed at present to replace one out of service, they can rent one for approximately \$40.00/day.

Eric Schelberg advised the committee that he has instituted a new fee for lift assist for private services. If they request Milford Ambulance Service there will be a \$50.00/hour fee charged the private service. This has been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Seward, Secretary

minutes unanimously approved at Committee meeting of August 18, 2004